



**Kent Ornithological Society**  
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

## **Executive Committee**

**Minutes** of a Meeting held on Thursday 17 January 2013 at 7:00pm at Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ

**Present:** Martin Coath, (Chair), John Cantelo, Jack Chantler, Rob Clements, Mike Henty, Geoff Orton, Keith Privett, Chris Roome, Mike Roser, Brendan Ryan, Stephen Wood and Barry Wright.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: Chris Abrams and Robin Mace and Anthea Skiffington.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2012 were accepted as an accurate record.

### **3. Promotions and Publicity**

BR presented his report (**Attachment A**). He had issued two Press Releases concerning the Waxwing invasion and the Seaton field meeting, but neither had been picked up. He aims to issue further briefings approximately monthly.

The KOS Twitter feed has 117 followers so far, of whom about 79 are KOS members. Brendan asked that he be sent material for tweets such as bird news, population trends and forthcoming events.

KOS has donated £250 to the Romney Marsh Tree Sparrow project which will help provide nest boxes.

**Action: Brendan Ryan**

#### **4. Membership**

CR presented his membership report (**Attachment B**). He told the committee that the current membership stood at 710.

**Action: Chris Roome**

#### **5. Kent Bird Report**

The Chairman thanked Keith Privett and other members of the team for their efforts resulting in the recent publication and delivery of *KBR 2010*.

Jack Chantler reported that he and Ken Lodge were in the process of compiling the species accounts for *KBR 2011*. Mike Gould has provided a long list of about 120 photographs which will be short-listed to around 40 by BW who will also provide the captions. BR emphasised the need to ensure that the captions related the pictures to specific events or sightings in the main body of the report.

When the species accounts are complete, KP will do the design and layout before the final printing. An ambitious target date of April 2013 has been set for publication.

The EC discussed the sensitive matter of the inclusion or otherwise of obituaries in *KBR*. The regrettable recent increase in the number of deaths of distinguished members – sixty years after the Society's foundation - is likely to continue for some time to come, and for reasons of space it is clearly not possible to include full obituaries in each *KBR* published. The Committee agreed that all relevant deaths should be noted in the *KBR*, but the full text would in future be contained on the web site.

The inclusion of short papers and survey reports was also discussed and it was felt that this should continue as long as suitable material was available.

**Action: Jack Chantler, Keith Privett, Barry Wright, Robin Mace**

#### **6. NewBirds of Kent**

MC reported correspondence from Andrew Henderson. Andrew has recently re-started work on the project and suggests that we review progress in six months or so. He acknowledges that the task is a large one and he would be receptive to idea of taking on an assistant if one with the requisite knowledge and commitment could be identified. Members supported Andrew's suggestion and expressed thanks for the great effort he has already put into the project.

**Action: Martin Coath, Rob Clements**

## **7. Kent Breeding Bird Atlas 2008 – 11**

RC reported on progress. He and Murray Orchard are to meet with Chris Dee on 28 January to discuss design, layout and costing of the *Atlas*. The C&S Sub-Committee has set up a working party to manage the project and RC has already drafted more than 50 species accounts. He tabled an example of a species account which was discussed by members.

A further 40 or so species require writers and Andy Lawson has agreed to contribute the text for gulls. RC will be attending the next E&R Sub-Committee with a view to recruiting further contributors.

JC expressed the view that if the revised population estimates differed significantly from previous ones, then explanations should be provided in the text.

BW asked about the proposed inclusion of photographs and how this would affect costs. RC agreed that this would be considered by the working party.

MC thanked RC and his colleagues for kick-starting this exciting project.

## **7. KOS News**

JC reported the move to on-line publication of the newsletter had been generally welcomed. CR stated that 43 members had so far requested hard copies. The Committee discussed the need to acquire a suitable laser printer to produce the small number of paper copies requested, but KP volunteered to produce the copies using equipment available to him.

JC has two articles in hand for the next edition. Norman McCanch will take over as editor in the summer.

**Action: John Cantelo, Keith Privett**

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

MH presented the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012 (**Attachment C**). He projected that the subscription rate would not need to be increased during 2013 but that much depended on the savings (estimated at £3,000) expected to result from publishing *KOS News* on line.

The Committee approved the Annual Accounts and thanked the Treasurer and Independent Auditor, KB Ellis for their work.

**Action: Mike Henty**

## **9. Indoor Meetings**

MC told the Committee that Tony Morris will not be able to attend this year's AGM and Chris Room kindly agreed to organise the provision of refreshments.

BR felt that the responsibility of organisation of indoor meetings needed to be clarified and MC agreed to write to AS regarding this.

**Action: Anthea Skiffington, Chris Roome, Martin Coath**

## **10. Outdoor Meetings**

MR reported on recent meetings at Seaton and Dungeness. Attendance at the first had been poor because of bad weather, but the Dungeness outing attracted 14 participants despite the cold conditions. Most participants appear to learn about the meetings through the website, but BR has begun to issue reminders on Twitter.

MR reminded the Committee of the planned boat trip in the first week of May, which will require 13 participants to make it viable.

**Action: Mike Roser**

## **11. Website and Forum**

MC had spoken to CA, but had nothing specific to report. BR expressed the view that the next webmaster should be a member of the EC and attend meetings regularly, and this met with general agreement.

**Action: Chris Abrams**

## **12. Editorial and Records Sub-Committee**

BW reported on discussion concerning the standardisation of site recording on the KOS database and COBRA. RM is concerned about the cost of migrating data from COBRA to a replacement system and will be attending the next E&R Sub-Committee meeting to discuss this and other current issues.

There was a general discussion on the role of KOS in providing data to environmental consultants and others involved in planning and development matters such as environmental impact assessments. It was agreed that this could be a useful source of income for the Society, but one which would require significant time and effort.

MH stated that in the past Tim Hodges had dealt with many requests, but other commitments meant that he had had to pass on the task to the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre (KMBRC). This organisation maintains a database of breeding and wintering birds derived partly from records passed on to it by KOS, and MH believed that it had originally been agreed that in return for its records, KOS would share in the fees charged. This has not turned out to be the case.

BW stated that he still receives requests for information which he usually passes to RM or Andrew Henderson who are sometimes able to help. Otherwise he refers requests to KMBRC. He agreed to contact KMBRC to clarify arrangements and review the financial implications.

**Action: Barry Wright**

### **13. Conservation and Surveys Sub-Committee**

RC discussed the work being done for the *2008-11 Kent Breeding Atlas* and some of the issues which it had thrown up. By way of example, he tabled a map of breeding records of Little Owl over the three atlas periods which found the species in 681 tetrads. He pointed out that this suggested a total population of 1,500 – 2,000 pairs in Kent, greatly more than the 270 pairs derived from the latest estimates of the Avian Population Estimates panel. The Committee discussed various aspects of population estimates and thanked RC for his continuing work.

**Action: Rob Clements**

### **14. Any Other Business**

#### **Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre**

MR confirmed that the KMBRC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference would be held in October at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He asked for a twenty minute presentation on behalf of KOS and RC agreed to give a paper on the status of the Hobby in Kent.

**Action: Mike Roser, Rob Clements**

#### **Date and Time of the Next Meeting:**

**The Annual General Meeting** will take place on Thursday 11 April 2013 at Grove Green Community Centre, Grovewood Drive, Maidstone ME14 5TQ. Doors will open at 7.15pm for a 7.45 start.

**The Next Meeting of the Executive Committee** will be on Thursday 18 July 2013 at 7.00pm at Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ.

# **Attachment A**

## **Promotions and Publicity Report**

To be appended (BR is presently abroad)

## **Attachment B**

Kent Ornithological Society

KOS Exec Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### **Membership Secretary's report**

- As of October 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 :-
- We currently have **33** non paying members. [Mainly these are honorary members, lifelong members etc]
- We have **668** fully paid up ordinary members an increase in 10 members since last report.
- We have a further **9** paid up members who are debtors i.e. still pay £9 on a standing order.
- Current membership is therefore **710** [Current mailing list]. This is the highest since current mem sec took over in April 2010. 51 new members joined the society in the calendar year 2012. [ 61 joined in 2011. ] 2 new members so far this year – one joined at quiz night the other at the field trip to Dungeness on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- Membership continues to slowly grow – but we need to attract new members too. Leaflets have been circulated – and some used – and the website does produce a constant stream of new members.

## Attachment C

### **Kent Ornithological Society**

Charity No. 212489

#### Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012

<b>2011</b>	<b><u>Statement of Financial Activities</u></b>		<b>2012</b>
	<b>Income</b>		
7,765	Subscriptions, net of PayPal fees (£35, 2011 £34)		7,848
892	Income tax recovered under Gift Aid		815
967	Donations		240
639	Interest		654
322	Meetings		476
196	Sale of Kent Bird Reports		169
80	Sales of DVDs & advertising		-
<u>10,861</u>			<u>10,202</u>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
	Estimated cost of 2012 KBR	4,500	
4,879	Under-provision for 2010 & 2011 KBRs	<u>700</u>	5,200
4,207	Other Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc.		4,235
606	Meetings		911
110	Insurance		110
343	Website & IT Expenses		521
200	Donations		50
260	Sundry Purchases		-
210	Depreciation of Computers & Equipment		168
<u>10,815</u>			<u>11,195</u>
46	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(993)
<u>31,381</u>	Total Reserves brought forward		<u>31,427</u>
<u>31,427</u>	Total Reserves carried forward	[Note (a)]	<u>30,434</u>

<b>2011</b>	<b><u>Balance Sheet</u></b>		<b>2012</b>
	<b>Assets</b>		
280	Tangible Fixed Assets:	[Note (b)]	530
	Current Assets:		
32,396	Barclays Bond & CAF 90 Day A/c	36,000	
1,391	Cash at Bank - Current & PayPal A/cs	1,923	
6,966	Cash at Bank - Deposit A/c	6,969	
41	Cash in Hand	<u>30</u>	44,922
336	Debtors & Prepayments		256



<u>41,410</u>			<u>45,708</u>
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
	Current Liabilities:		
	Provision for KBRs	13,200	
9,983	Other Creditors	<u>2,074</u>	15,274
<u>31,427</u>	Net Assets		<u>30,434</u>
17,197	Birds of Kent Fund		17,644
<u>14,230</u>	General Fund		<u>12,790</u>
<u>31,427</u>			<u>30,434</u>
			0

# Kent Ornithological Society

Charity No. 212489

## Annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012

### Notes to the Accounts

#### Note (a): Movements in Reserves

		Birds of Kent Fund £	General Fund £	Total Reserves £
<b>2012</b>	Opening balances			
	01/01/2012	17,297	14,130	31,427
	Movement in the Year	347	(1,340)	(993)
	Closing balances	<u>17,644</u>	<u>12,790</u>	<u>30,434</u>
	31/12/2012			
<b>2011</b>	Opening balances			
	01/01/2011	16,860	14,521	31,381
	Movement in the Year	437	(391)	46
	Closing balances	<u>17,297</u>	<u>14,130</u>	<u>31,427</u>
	31/12/2011			

The amounts added to the Birds of Kent Fund represent the equivalent of interest on the opening balance of the fund calculated at the rates of interest earned on the Barclays Bond over the year.

#### Note (b): Movements in Tangible Fixed Assets

		Computers & Equipment £
<b>2011</b>		
£		
490	Net Book Value brought forward	280
-	Purchases in the year – laptop for KBR production	418
(210)	Less: Depreciation for the year	(168)

## **Notes to draft 2012 Accounts**

### **Summary**

These draft accounts have been based on information available to date and certain assumptions made. Overall, there was a deficit of £685 in the year which, following practice in previous years, represents an increase in the Birds of Kent Fund of £347 and a decrease in the General Fund of £1,032.

The General Fund balance of £13,098 represents 120% of total expenditure for 2012 so we are financially well placed subject to all the usual caveats about unexpected future expenditure.

A critical assumption I have made is the estimated cost of the three outstanding KBRs – 2010, 2011 & 2012 (it being established practice to provide for the cost of the KBR for Year X in the accounts for Year X). I have assumed each of these will cost £4,300. If I get an invoice for the 2010 KBR (currently in press?) before I send the accounts for audit, I will make any necessary adjustment to the accounts.

Other items of income or expenditure do not require any particular comment as no heading within either category contains anything exceptional.

As for 2013, how much we can save from the £3,900 spent on newsletters in 2012 will be key to our financial position.

At the end of 2012 I reduced the balance on the Barclays Bond to £20,000 and invested £16,000 in a Charities Aid Foundation 90 Day Account give access to part of the funds at 90 days notice rather than tie them all up for 12 months.